

“Towel Bearer”
Series: “*Story*”
(Part 4 of 4)

Open: Describe the best possible customer service you have received, i.e.: when, where, what, etc.

Explore: Read Philippians 2:1-11.

The book of Philippians was written by Paul while in house arrest. From there Paul encouraged others to trust God and live for Christ in all situations.

1. What five qualities should mark a believer’s unity with Christ (vs. 1)? What issues might the church in Philippi have been facing based on verse 1?
2. How did Paul encourage the believers in Philippi to live (vs. 3-4)? Is it possible to exercise humility outside of relationships with others? Explain.
3. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate humility and unselfishness (vs. 5-8)?
4. What does it look like to have the same attitude as Christ?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. The way of the towel is all about having an attitude of “whatever – wherever”. When it comes to serving, what phrase currently describes you? ...your family? ...CARE Group? ...church?
2. Serving others often means helping people who are less fortunate than you are. When it comes to serving, how can a person stay humble, refrain from passing judgment, as well as grow in love for people?
3. Needs are all around us if we open our eyes and look for them. What particular injustices or needs in the world pull at your heart? What would you identify as your “serve” in the world / community / church?
4. Serving others should characterize the life of a Christ follower. Discuss reasons why serving should never be just a one-time thing. How can we encourage one another toward love and good works as a group?
5. Although we may not fully experience it this side of heaven, the value of serving outweighs the cost. What are some of the sacrifices involved with serving others? What are some of the blessings? Who will you be a blessing to this week?

Live:

As a group: To get the ball rolling on this subject. Plan a foot-washing with your group (keep it gender-friendly). Next, challenge one another to become “towel bearers” in the family, in the CARE Group, in the church, and in the community.

On your own: Memorize John 13:14. Write down people and opportunities you have to practice being a towel bearer. If you do not have a heart for any particular area of service, ask God to reveal a need that you can meet.

Listening Guide Notes

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” –Mark 10:45 (NIV)

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” –John 13:14 (NIV)

Towel Bearer truths...

1. A towel bearer doesn’t discriminate in their service.

“The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, Son of Simon, to betray Jesus.” –John 13:2 (NIV)

2. A towel bearer serves people who are seemingly below them

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.” –John 13:3 (NIV)

3. A towel bearer see a need and meets it.

^[4] *“Jesus got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. ^[5] After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.”*
–John 13:4-5 (NIV)

4. A towel bearer doesn’t see serving as a temporary role

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” –John 13:14 (NIV)

5. A towel bearer is not motivated by an earthly motivation

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”
–John 13:17 (NIV)

^[9] *“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ^[10] And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”*
–Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)